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Indiana Central Railway vs. Mundy, where the liability of the company for the negligence of its employees in the transportation of passengers upon free tickets, with the following condition annexed to the ticket, "It is agreed that the person accepting this ticket, assumes all risk of personal injury, and loss or damage to property, while using the same on the trains of the company," is considered; and the rule declares that the contract, evidenced by the ticket, does not cast upon the holder any risks arising from any negligence of the servants of the company in running the trains. It is a question of importance, and not free from difficulty. We believe the rule above declared, is a salutary one on the ground of policy merely; but we should probably have felt compelled to annex some qualifications, which are not distinctly brought out in the opinion, although fairly enough implied probably.

The case of *The City of Madison vs. Whitney*, where the rights, duties, and liabilities of stockholders in banks, in regard to taxation, together with the right to tax United States stocks, is extensively considered, involves questions of great importance and magnitude. The case of *Bell vs. Cafferty* discusses the question of the rights and duties of the vendor and vendee of personal property, where payment of the price is made in forged promissory notes indorsed by the vendee.

There are many other valuable cases in this volume, but we could not here notice them. The volume is one of more than ordinary value, and is prepared with great labor and fidelity by Mr. KERR, the reporter. We make no question it will be in large demand in other states.

I. F. R.

PRECEDENTS OF AMERICAN NEUTRALITY, in reply to the Speech of SIR ROUNDELL PALMER, Attorney-General of England, in the British House of Commons, May 13th, 1864. By GEORGE BEMIS. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1864. 8vo. Paper; pp. 83.

The cases of rebel armed vessels fitted out in English ports, (unfortunately becoming numerous), are of the highest legal and political interest, and must at no very remote day become of practical national importance. Any information, therefore, that comes to us in an authentic form in regard to the cases themselves, or the arguments bearing upon them, is of the utmost value. The present review is exceedingly well timed. The author states that it is mainly intended for Englishmen, at the same time adding that he is "well aware that it is a thankless task to endeavor to enlighten or persuade most Englishmen of rank or station, as to the law or the morality of our struggle." Had he desired to make his statement strongly, he

might well have called it a thankless task to enlighten any Englishman on any subject relating to America; but not to be ungracious, the author has contented himself with a concise statement of facts, and irresistible deductions from them, in a style so calm and dispassionate that the most wrongheaded John Bull cannot fail to be impressed by it. The reader will find in these clear recitals of early American cases involving our neutrality, taken from a chapter of our national history not so familiar as it should be, even to ourselves, a new testimony to that undeviating good faith towards other nations that has always been peculiarly the characteristic of American diplomacy. This pamphlet, therefore, will be found of great interest, and the impartial professional tone in which it is written, cannot fail to do honor not only to the writer, but to the country.

J. T. M.

THE NATIONAL BANK ACT. An Act to provide a National Currency, &c., approved June 3d, 1864. New York: Published at the office of the Bankers' Magazine. 8vo., pp. 142. Paper; \$1.00.

The publisher of the excellent and popular Bankers' Magazine makes a very acceptable publication of this important act, which is now exciting such universal attention, and concerning which the profession must be so frequently called upon to advise. The act is given in full, and also in a separate analysis, and a complete index, which will greatly facilitate the handling of the book. To these there is added also the Gold Act of June, 1864, in full.

J. T. M.

A MANUAL FOR NOTARIES PUBLIC AND BANKERS. By BERNARD ROELKER, A. M., 4th ed. New York: J. Smith Homans. 8vo., pp. 368; \$3.

The functions of a notary public, even in countries of common law jurisdiction, at times approach so nearly a judicial character, that it is of the highest importance that he should be properly versed in his powers and duties. To this end we doubt not this manual will materially conduce, as it embodies a great deal of valuable and practical information. Moreover, as a digest of several important branches of mercantile law, prepared by a very competent gentleman of the New York bar, and as the only good American work on the subject, the bar will find it convenient and of practical service; though being mainly intended for notaries themselves, it belongs rather to that class of semi-professional works that are always more or less unsatisfactory to a legal reader, and in the end are usually productive of far more litigation than they prevent.

J. T. M.